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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Toshiaki TAGAWA et al.

Group Art Unit: 1641

Appl. No: 09/926,154

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Examiner: G. Counts

I.A. Filed: March 15, 2000

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For

: LIGAND-BONDED COMPLEX

(National Stage of PCT/JP00/01563)

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111 TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED DECEMBER 16, 2002

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed December 16, 2002, which sets a three month shortened statutory period for response until March 16, 2003.

Applicants hereby request an extension of time for three months to extend the period for response until June 16, 2003, and are concurrently filing a formal Request for Extension of Time for three months accompanied by the government extension of time fee. If for any reason the Request for Extension of Time is not associated with the file at the Patent and Trademark Office or if the fee is deficient, this is an express request for any required extension of time to maintain the pendency of the application, and authorization to charge any required extension of time fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Entry of the instant amendment with reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.